

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
Native Plant Program  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

**Project Title:** Western Lily (*Lilium occidentale*) and Pitkin Marsh lily (*Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *pitkinense*) Genomic Study (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project may occur at the following locations in Del Norte County and Sonoma County: (1) Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area (California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Element Occurrence (EO) 28 for western lily; (2) Table Bluff Ecological Reserve (CNDDDB EO 22) for western lily; and (3) Pitkin Marsh (CNDDDB EO 3) for Pitkin Marsh lily. Leaf tissue samples will be transferred to Novogene Corporation Inc. in Sacramento, California for RNA extraction and sequencing. Additional tissue may be stored and analyzed at the Permittee's laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act and Native Plant Protection Act scientific, educational, or management permit to Thomas Givnish (Permit No. 2081(a)-26-007-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 786.9, subdivision (c). The permit authorizes the export, take, and possession of a small amount of plant tissue from western Lily (*Lilium occidentale*) and Pitkin Marsh lily (*Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *pitkinense*) for a genomic study investigating North American lilies. Plant tissue collection for the Project is expected to occur in June or early July 2026. Four leaves will be collected from a single western lily plant at Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area and Table Bluff Ecological Reserve. In addition, four leaves will be collected from each of two Pitkin Marsh lily plants. For each plant sampled, two leaves will be sliced into 2-mm wide strips, placed into tubes containing RNAlater, stored over ice, and sent to Novogene processing facilities for RNA extraction and sequencing. The remaining two leaves from each plant will be dried in silica gel and stored at room temperature at the Permittee's laboratory facilities in Wisconsin for reference purposes and potential future whole genome sequencing. Photographs of flowers will be taken as virtual vouchers. Findings will help guide species management by informing climate-based species distribution models, potential assisted migration needs, and conservation priorities based on genetic divergence among species and subspecies.

**California Public Agency Approving Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Thomas Givnish, Professor Emeritus, Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project consists of basic data collection and research intended to advance the genetic understanding of two state-listed endangered species: western lily and Pitkin Marsh lily. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife includes measures to ensure that research activities do not adversely affect existing populations of either species.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Joanne Heraty

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

**Signature:** Signed by:  
*Kevin Ponce* **Date:** 6/1/2026  
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*Kevin Ponce, Native Plant Program Manager*

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_